

**To:** Williams, Laura[williams.laura@epa.gov]  
**From:** Cristiano, Gina  
**Sent:** Mon 9/7/2015 8:05:41 PM  
**Subject:** RE: EPA MA - assist FEMA with assessment at Pine Ridge SD

No worries. I just didn't know if you'd heard.

I sent a note to Johanna and Dan asking them to check in with Bill R and/or Barb Benoy about going...I imagine I'll hear from them tomorrow morning. We could ask a b/u region to assist but I don't think it's that critical in terms of timing and I don't really want to do that yet (with all the other response work going on).

**From:** Williams, Laura  
**Sent:** Monday, September 07, 2015 2:03 PM  
**To:** Cristiano, Gina  
**Subject:** Re: EPA MA - assist FEMA with assessment at Pine Ridge SD

Hmm. He never sent me a reply or phone message. Sorry. I've checked schedules and there aren't any OSCs unless we want to ask Joni. But she doesn't have the expertise and she just went down to Durango.

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 7, 2015, at 1:48 PM, Cristiano, Gina <[Cristiano.Gina@epa.gov](mailto:Cristiano.Gina@epa.gov)> wrote:

BTW – did you hear from Curtis too? I got this note from him that he's unavailable to go to SD. I asked Johanna to check in with her folks to the extent possible this weekend and will work more with her tomorrow to see if one of them can go. Cheers, G

**From:** Kimbel, Curtis  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 06, 2015 7:03 PM  
**To:** Cristiano, Gina  
**Subject:** Re: EPA MA - assist FEMA with assessment at Pine Ridge SD

Gina,

I'm out of the office this week and will not be able to go to ND. Tien and I spoke about it late last week.

Thanks

Curtis

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 5, 2015, at 12:03 PM, Cristiano, Gina <[Cristiano.Gina@epa.gov](mailto:Cristiano.Gina@epa.gov)> wrote:

Hi Curtis, Hi Tien,

I'm sending along some information on the MA from FEMA to support assessments in Pine Ridge SD. I'm assuming you're aware of this and are ready to go but please let me know asap if you need help with travel, etc. And do let me know when you plan to deploy (I've let FEMA know it won't be until Tuesday or Wednesday due to other incidents/responses you're working). Also please let me know how you feel about going longer than two weeks so I can relay to FEMA and cue up your replacements as needed.

As I babbled on Tien's voicemail yesterday ☺ here's what I know: FEMA is assembling task forces to assess damaged properties in several locations in SD. The groups will consist of multiple agencies looking at various issues – proximity to flood plain, topography, asbestos (presence/absence), presence of historical properties, etc – to determine whether to repair damaged homes or bring in MHUs (mobile housing units). The historical preservation piece is a BIG DEAL on this one (again, my understanding). I explained to FEMA that we are not historic/archaeological experts. They said that was fine, that you would have reach back/access to their historical preservation people; this seemed reasonable since is typically how we'd work on initial assessment of such issues.

Below is information on where to go...you'll need to get your own hotel rooms (no FEMA camps), looks like either Hot Springs SD or Chadron NE are best for reporting to the FFO. NO EPA LOGO CLOTHING PLEASE. Also, I'm sending along the draft MA/RRF (resource request form) with the SOW and the draft EHP form that you'll be using in the field. Last, they're not expecting you to use contractors (not at this time) so give some thought to what equipment you might need to use on your own to assess

the properties/homes. I'm thinking you probably don't need anything but wanted to mention it.

Call/email me if you need anything, have questions, etc...I'm around all weekend!

Thanks, G

**From:** Thaxton, Steven [<mailto:Steven.Thaxton@fema.dhs.gov>]

**Sent:** Friday, September 04, 2015 3:35 PM

**To:** Cristiano, Gina

**Cc:** Sandoval, Joni; Williams, Laura; Espinosa, Adam; Bello, Charles

**Subject:** RE: Support for 4237DR-OST

Hi Gina,

Many, many thanks!!! Best way in to Pine Ridge is through Rapid city. Rent a car and head southish. Two closest towns are Hot Springs SD and Chadron NE. Either is about equal distance from their operating location at the FFO. Part of the challenge here is the distance to facilities. FFO location SUANNE BIG CROW BOYS/GIRLS CLUB, 1 POSITIVE WAY E HWY 18, PINE RIDGE, SD 57770. No gov't housing identified so they'll rent own rooms. We're minimizing gov't appearance so no FEMA or EPA attire please. Would they be able to go longer than two weeks if needed?

I've got 20K allocated already and would like Adam to start the mission with that, we'll throw another 30K on it as soon as the RAA drops. Would that be OK? I think Adam has worked up some verbiage for the MA. I've also attached the EHP inspection sheet for reference. Not finalized but will give the folks some ideas. If they can be here Tues and/or Weds that will work. If you need documentation to process, you can use this as a verbal MA to move on.

Again, much appreciated!!!

Thanks,

Steve

Steven Thaxton  
FEMA Region VIII 4237DR-OST Operations Section Chief  
Phone: (303) 235-4804 Cell: (303) 815-8878  
Email: [steven.thaxton@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:steven.thaxton@fema.dhs.gov)

**From:** Cristiano, Gina [<mailto:Cristiano.Gina@epa.gov>]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 04, 2015 2:52 PM  
**To:** Thaxton, Steven  
**Cc:** Sandoval, Joni; Williams, Laura; Espinosa, Adam  
**Subject:** RE: Support for 4237DR-OST

Hi Steve,

So, we've identified a couple of people for this, but am waiting to hear back on when they can deploy (one OSC is currently on a response in Utah).

Regarding a budget – assuming we have 2 working this for four weeks, I'm estimating the cost to be about \$45,000. These folks are Superfund so both regular time and OT must be reimbursed (\$80/hr \* 55hrs/week \* 2 people \* 4 weeks). I'm assuming they'd be working longer days and also that the \$80/hr should cover indirect rate but hotel, per diem would be in addition to, hence the rounding to \$45k.

I'll be in touch as soon as I have deployment days (because of the Gold King Mine response and other response work these folks have been working, it may be Tuesday or Wed before they can get on the ground with FEMA). Also, I'm unfamiliar with what is near Pine Ridge – should they plan to fly or drive and where should they report to? Do we make our own lodging arrangements or did FEMA set up something in the vicinity?

More soon and thanks! Gina

**From:** Thaxton, Steven [<mailto:Steven.Thaxton@fema.dhs.gov>]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 04, 2015 8:10 AM  
**To:** Cristiano, Gina  
**Cc:** Sandoval, Joni; Espinosa, Adam  
**Subject:** Support for 4237DR-OST

Good Morning Gina,

Know you are busy so I cc'd Joni. Looking for some assistance here in Pine Ridge SD for the Individual Assistance declaration to the Oglala Sioux Tribe (OST). We are embarking on a direct housing mission and could use some assistance starting as soon as next week. We are putting together 5 task forces to conduct site assessments and that are going to be critical to how we proceed. The evaluations will be conducted over next several weeks (less than four weeks is expected). The area that I'm hoping EPA might be able to assist with is related to site Environmental and Historic Preservation (EHP) functions associated with the TF's. It would require field work for individuals who can do site assessments – understand topography, floodplain/wetlands, asbestos, overall site assessments. Since the work occurs on an Indian Reservation the historical part has high visibility as well. It would be mostly manual documentation so access to FEMA systems shouldn't be an issue. End state is that we can provide validated scoping for the way forward in what has been receiving cabinet level visibility due to its proximity to the "Promise Zone" designation. Was wondering if EPA had 2 individuals that we could mission assign to fulfill this need. Kind of a short turn since we'd like them to be here next week, the sooner the better. Even if you had only one individual that would be a tremendous help.

Thanks,

Steve

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<OST EHP Form.draft.cb.rm.docx>

<4237DR-OST-EPA-01 RRF.pdf>